



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Aeronautics Division

April 11, 2006

NASA Software of the Year Award Committee
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035

Dear Committee Members:

The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum welcomes over 9 million visitors each year from all over the world. In a continuing effort to present meaningful, educational exhibits that entertain and inform the public, the Museum is planning a new exhibition entitled *America by Air* that will take visitors on a journey through the history of air transportation in the United States, from the early years of Air Mail to the Jet Age and beyond.

Air Traffic Control is an important part of America's air transportation story, and it is addressed throughout the exhibition's four units. In addition, it is given a more focused treatment in a dedicated 100 square-foot area. This unit will feature a 3 to 5-minute video tracing the path of a single flight from take-off to landing, surrounded by text and activities that further explain the principles described in the video.

We are very interested in including elements of NASA's Future Air Traffic Management Concepts Evaluation Tool (FACET) as part of the air traffic control unit in *America by Air*. This interactive display will adapt key elements of FACET to highlight our nation's air transportation system in a user-friendly manner that will educate and entertain audiences of all ages. It will also raise public awareness of the role of science and technology in our daily lives.

Our current schedule calls for the air traffic control unit concepts to be fully fleshed out in late May and early June of this year. We appreciate NASA's support of this endeavor of national interest, and look forward to working with the FACET team to develop a program that enhances the goals of *America by Air* and the National Air and Space Museum.

Sincerely,

F. Robert van der Linden
Curator of Air Transportation

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